

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6723

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, JA

SUBJECT: OPRED - PROPOSAL TO ADD AN ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL
ATTACHE POSITION AT TOKYO

REF: STATE 263815

SUMMARY: I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT RATIONALE GIVEN REFTEL
JUSTIFIES ESTABLISHMENT OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL
ATTACHE POSITION AS FORESTRY SPECIALIST. FORESTRY AND
WOOD PRODUCTS TRADE PRESENTLY HANDLED BY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL
SECTION'S RAW MATERIALS/BASIC INDUSTRIES UNIT. THIS UNIT,
WHICH IS STAFFED BY EXPERIENCED AND QUALIFIED AMERICAN AND
JAPANESE EMPLOYEES, HAS ADEQUATELY CARRIED OUT THE RE-
QUIREMENTS PLACED ON IT. IT HAS DONE SO IN CONTEXT OF
JAPAN'S OVERALL RAW MATERIALS POLICIES AND PROBLEMS, WHICH
I BELIEVE IS RESPONSIVE TO THE SECRETARY'S EXPRESSED WISH
FOR CONCEPTUALIZED ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC DEVELOP-
MENTS. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, QTE CONTINUING NEED
FOR INTELLIGENCE UNQTE (REFTEL) IS AN IN FUTURE CAN BE
HANDLED BY EXISTING COMPLEMENT, AND QTE ON-THE-SPOT
EXPERTISE UNQTE, AS REQUIRED, CAN BE PROVIDED, AS IN THE
PAST, BY VISITS FROM FORESTRY SERVICE EXPERTS. END SUMMARY.

1. I HAVE CAREFULLY REVIEWED REFTEL PROPOSAL FOR
ADDITIONAL POSITION IN AGATTACHE'S OFFICE AS FORESTRY
SPECIALIST. I HAVE COME TO CONCLUSION THAT NONE OF
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REASONS LISTED BY FORESTRY SERVICE JUSTIFIES INCREASE OF

EMBASSY'S COMPLEMENT.

2. WE ARE WELL AWARE OF MAGNITUDE OF US EXPORTS OF FORESTRY AND WOOD PRODUCTS TO JAPAN AND RESULTING IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION OF THIS CATEGORY TO US EXPORT EFFORT. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, VOLUME AND VALUE OF EXPORTS IN THEMSELVES DO NOT SEEM TO ME NECESSARILY TO REQUIRE PRESENCE AT EMBASSY OF FULL-TIME SPECIALIST IN FORESTRY PRODUCTS. NEITHER IS FACT THAT FORESTRY SERVICE IS MAJOR AGENCY IN ITSELF JUSTIFICATION FOR ADDITIONAL POSITION. SUCH LINE OF REASONING WOULD APPEAR TO UNDERMINE CONCEPT OF SINGLE, UNIFIED FOREIGN SERVICE WHICH REPRESENTS INTERESTS OF ALL USG AGENCIES. SOME GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (E.G. HEW, HUD AND LABOR) DO NOT HAVE EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED TO TOKYO, NOR, FOR MORE ANALAGOUS EXAMPLE, DOES BUREAU OF MINES, EVEN THOUGH CY 1973 US NON-FUEL MINERAL EXPORTS TO JAPAN TOTALED \$1.1 BILLION, I.E. ABOUT SAME AS WOOD PRODUCTS.

3. RELATED TO QUESTION OF EXPORT VOLUME IS THAT OF EXPORT OBJECTIVES IN FORESTRY AND WOOD PRODUCTS. RECENT HISTORY HAS BEEN ONE OF US' SEEKING TO LIMIT UNPROCESSED FORESTRY PRODUCT EXPORTS, NOT TO EXPAND THEM. PRESUMABLY AREA OF GREATEST EXPORT INTEREST IS THAT OF SEMI-PROCESSED AND PROCESSED WOOD PRODUCTS, WHERE OTHER USG AGENCIES, NOTABLY COMMERCE, HAVE EXPERTISE AND INTEREST AS WELL.

4. EMBASSY'S POLICY, WHICH I BELIEVE IS APPROPRIATE, HAS BEEN TO TREAT FORESTRY AND WOOD PRODUCTS WITHIN CONTEXT OF JAPAN'S OVERALL RAW MATERIALS POLICIES AND PROBLEMS. I CONSIDER THIS RESPONSIVE TO THE SECRETARY'S DESIRE FOR CONCEPTUALIZED ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS. RAW MATERIALS/BASIC INDUSTRIES UNIT IN EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR FORESTRY AND WOOD PRODUCTS TRADE AND RELATED INDUSTRIES (CONSTRUCTION, PAPER AND PULP, AND PRINTING). THIS UNIT HAS FUNCTIONED EFFECTIVELY IN NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE PROMOTION AND REPORTING. MAJOR ISSUE IN THIS AREA IN RECENT PAST WAS TIGHT SUPPLY AND RESULTANT PRICE INCREASES OF LOGS IN US WHICH WAS EXACERBATED BY JAPAN IMPORT DEMAND. THIS SITUATION WAS DELIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FUSED BY NEGOTIATION OF VOLUNTARY IMPORT RESTRAINTS ON LOGS AND CANTS BY JAPAN, AS WELL AS BY RECESSION IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES. IN THIS, AS IN SIMILAR ISSUES IN FUTURE, I WOULD EXPECT PRIMARY NEGOTIATING RESPONSIBILITY TO REMAIN WITH THE DEPARTMENT, AS IN SPELLED OUT IN THE STATE-AGRICULTURE AGREEMENT OF 1955 (10 FAM 811).

5. QTE CONTINUING NEED FOR INTELLIGENCE UNQTE (REFTEL) HAS

BEEN FULLY MET BY COMPETENT AMERICAN AND JAPANESE EMPLOYEES. FSO IN CHARGE OF RAW MATERIALS/BASIC INDUSTRIES UNIT HAS FOUR YEARS' ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE IN JAPAN (PLUS LANGUAGE CAPABILITY), INCLUDING FIFTEEN MONTHS ON FORESTRY AND WOOD PRODUCTS; HER JAPANESE ASSISTANT HAS SIX YEARS' EXPERIENCE AND CONTACTS WITH FORESTRY, CONSTRUCTION, PULP AND PAPER AND PRINTING INDUSTRIES. IF WASHINGTON AGENCIES REQUIRE INFORMATION OR SERVICES WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN PROVIDED BY EMBASSY TO DATE, WE WOULD EXPECT THESE TO BE SPELLED OUT ON COORDINATED BASIS BY AGENCIES CONCERNED.

6. WITH RESPECT TO TRADE PROMOTION, I BELIEVE WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY OVER NEXT FEW YEARS TO UPGRADE US EXPORTS OF FORESTRY PRODUCTS TO JAPAN TO INCLUDE A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF PRE-CUT AND PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING AND FINISHED BUILDING MATERIALS. IN CREATING JOBS FOR AMERICANS AND ALLEVIATING SOME OF JAPAN'S PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION AND OVER-CROWDING OF INDUSTRIAL SITES, THUS SHIFT AWAY FROM LOGS AND TOWARD MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES. THE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION AND THE US TRADE CENTER, WHICH HELD A SUCCESSFUL PRE-FABRICATED HOUSING EXHIBITION LAST SPRING AND IS PLANNING ANOTHER, ARE WELL-ORGANIZED AND STAFFED TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR FORESTRY PRODUCTS TRADE IN THIS DIRECTION.

7. FINALLY, RE QTE NEED FOR ON-THE-SPOT EXPERTISE IN FORESTRY MATTERS UNQTE (REFTEL), WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO PASS ON FREQUENCY AND PRIORITIES OF SUCH EXPERTISE. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT AS NEED ARISES, IT WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE AND LESS EXPENSIVE FOR FORESTRY SERVICE FOR EXPERT WITH COMPETENCE IN PARTICULAR SUBJECT AT ISSUE TO MAKE SPOT VISIT. RECENT EXAMPLE WAS VISIT OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGIONAL FORESTER FROM ALASKA, CHARLES YATES. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT RESEARCH OF THIS NATURE IS BEST DONE BY INDIVIDUAL WHO IS ACTUALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR APPLYING CONCLUSIONS TO MANAGEMENT OF PARTICULAR FOREST AREA WHOSE TIMBER IS DESTINED FOR JAPAN.

8. IF, DESPITE FOREGOING, ADDITIONAL ASSISTANT AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE WERE ASSIGNED TO EMBASSY, THERE WOULD BE NO UNMANAGEABLE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND THAT USDA'S PRESENT ALLOTMENT OF OFFICE SPACE REPRESENTS MAXIMUM AVAILABLE AND THUS ADDITIONAL PERSON WOULD HAVE TO BE FITTED INTO EXISTING OFFICE SPACE. ALSO, HOUSING IS SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE ON LOCAL MARKET.

9. I REVIEWED THE ABOVE WITH THE AMBASSADOR PRIOR
TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN
HAWAII, AND HE CONCURRED IN SUBSTANCE OF THESE COMMENTS.
SHOESMITH

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